MoU for fire retardant coaches

1480. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 2005 Government entered in Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with French National Railway seeking technical assistance for manufacture of fire retardant coaches;

(b) if so, whether the MoU is still valid;

(c) if not, whether Government is taking steps to revalidate the MoU; and

(d) whether it is not a fact that if the MoU were executed in time then perhaps many lives could be saved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No MoU has been signed or entered into with French National Railways in 2005. However, an MoU between Ministry of Railways and French National Railways (SNCF) was signed in January, 2004 for promotion of cooperation in the rail sector. The MoU valid for 3 years was further extended by 1 year up to January, 2008. The MoU did not specifically identify technical assistance for manufacture of fire retardant coaches.

One of the areas identified for obtaining technical expertise from SCNF was for acquiring a software suited to Indian conditions simulated fire related studies in passenger carrying rail vehicles. Sanction of Ministry of Railways has been accorded for acquiring this software from SNCF.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Fund for existing projects

1481. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways need Rs. 60,000 crores to complete all the existing rail projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are details of on-going rail projects on the ECoR system and what is the time-frame within which these would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 1.4.07 throwforward of projects under New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Railway Electrification and Metropolitan Transport Project is Rs. 61487 crore. There are 103 New Line, 66 Gauge Conversion, 164 Doubling, 28 Railway Electrification and 15 Metropolitan Transport projects appearing in the Budget 2007-08 out of which 80 projects have already been completed.